

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3202

AMEMBSSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMMEBASSY PARIS 8599

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: TRAIN STATION RE-OPENED IN BERLIN

1. ON SUNDAY MORNING, SEPT. 26, TRAIN STATION AT SPANDAU IN NORTHWEST BERLIN REOPENED FOR FIRST TIME IN 24 YEARS. RECONSTRUCTION OF TRAIN PLATFORM AND STATION AS WELL AS OPENING OF RAIL CROSSING POINT AT STAAKEN CAME ABOUT AS RESULT OF FRG/GDR AGREEMENT OF DEC. 19, 1975.

2. FOR PERIOD THIS SPRING, IT APPEARED THAT PROJECT MIGHT BE DELAYED OR CANCELLED AS RESULT OF REFUSAL OF EAST GERMANS TO OBTAIN NECESSARY ALLIED APPROVAL TO CARRY OUT RECONSTRUCTION AND MOVE MATERIAL. THIS WAS OVERCOME WHEN GDR FINALLY PASSED CONSTRUCTION PLANS TO ALLIES THROUGH GERMAN OFFICIAL JOINTLY EMPLOYED BY ALLIES AND SENAT. CONSTRUCTION THEN PROCEEDED ON SCHEDULE.

3. TRAIN TO HAMBURG FROM BERLIN'S DOWNTOWN ZOO

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STATION VIA SPANDAU AND STAAKEN NOW TAKES THIRTY MINUTES LESS TO MAKE TRIP. SEVERAL HUNDRED BERLINERS

CROWDED SPANDAU STATION FOR OPENING. SENATOR
STOBBE TOLD EMBASSY BONN OFFICER THAT THIS WAS SIGN
OF HOW IMPORTANT BERLINERS REGARDED BEING EVEN THIRTY MINUTES CLOSER
TO
FRG. HE ADDED THAT THIS SHOWED IT WAS WORTH ALL
DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN BRINGING ABOUT SPANDAU RE-
CONSTRUCTION AND STAAKEN CORSSING POINT.

4. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, STATE SECRETARY MARIE
SCHLEI, SENATOR STOBBE AND OTHER ERLIN LUMINARIES
MADE ROUND TRIP JOURNEY TO HAMBURG IN HONOR OF
OCCASION, ENJOYING CHAMPAGNE ENROUTE IN A SALON CAR
THAT ONCE HOUSED HITLER'S BATHTUBS.

5. COMMENT: A HALF HOUR REDUCTION IN BERLIN-HAMBURG TRAIN
SERVICE SEEMS A MINOR MATTER ANYWHERE BUT BERLIN.
HERE, HOWEVER, IT SIGNIFIES THAT THE TREND IS NOW
TOWARD BETTER CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND
ESPECIALLY THE FRG EVEN THOUGH IN 1931 ONE COULD
TRANSIT TO HAMBURG IN 2 HRS 13 MINUTES VS.
GOVERNING MAYOR'S 3 1/2 HOURS ON SEPT 26.
END COMMENT.
GEORGE

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